

[6 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) whether CFTRI need any modification or improvement in terms of objectives, organisations, manpower operation due to its long experience of over a period of more than 50 years?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Director, CFTRI is a member of the Apex Advisory Body under Directorate General of Health Services DGHS, Ministry of Health and Family Planning, Government of India. He provides inputs in the matters of food quality, safety, nutrition and processing which come up for discussion from time to time.

(b) CFTRI has linkages with a number of international agencies, such as Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Indo Swiss Collaboration in Biotechnology (ISCB), United Nations Development Programme, New York and European Economic Commission, Brussels. CFTRI receives partial funding from these agencies for undertaking select research projects. CFTRI also receives few fellowships from United Nations University (UNU) Programme for Human Resource Development.

(c) The improvement in management systems is a continuous process and the laboratory is guided by its Research Council, Management Council and CSIR from time to time.

Survey by CFTRI

683. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Food Technology Research Institute (CFTRI), the apex organization in food processing, has made any survey and study of each State with reference to its requirement and the thrust areas;

(b) if so, how much percentage of such requirement has been met;

(c) whether it is often stated that for want of fruit and vegetable processing and preservation facilities; good lot of foreign market could not be exploited and availed; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures conceived and taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. CFTRI is not an Apex Organization, but only an R&D Institute under Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Its mandate is primarily undertaking research and development activities in the area of Food Sciences.

(c) and (d) CFTRI has developed necessary scientific techniques for processing and preservation of a variety of fruits and vegetables. These are being utilized by a number of entrepreneurs.

Development of Science and Technology in NER

684. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any initiative for development and promotion of science and technology in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of planning formulated and implemented so far and the details of funds granted for this purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) The Government provides financial assistance for development and promotion of science and technology in the North-Eastern Region under various programmes such as science and engineering research, science communication, natural resource data management system, science and society, state science and technology programme, bio-technology etc. The projects approved are based on the proposals received from various institutions in the States. In addition to these R&D projects, Government provides financial support to various State Councils for Science and Technology for development and promotion of science and technology in the respective States. The areas identified include strengthening science education, bio-resource technology, energy, meteorology mapping, health care, bamboo processing and disaster management.

(c) A Statement showing State-wise and year-wise details of funds granted for this purpose is given below.